

the ancient games. First staged in 1896 in Athens, the games attracted about 245 athletes to participate in 43 events. At the Sydney 2000 Games, more than 10,000 athletes took part in 300 events.

The Olympic Movement has survived wars, boycotts and terrorism to become a symbol of the ability of the people of all nations to come together in peace and friendship. And in 2004, the games return to their birthplace.

The Greek Government has made tremendous progress in recent months to improve the security infrastructure for the upcoming games and wish them the best as they prepare for the challenge of hosting the world's premiere athletic event.

I represent a large and active Greek-American community, and I have been proud to support U.S. participation in negotiations over Cyprus, the fight for freedom and human rights for all Cypriots, the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew.

I congratulate the people of Greece on the anniversary of their independence, and I look forward to working together with Greek-Americans and the Greek Government on issues of mutual interest in the years ahead.

HONORING KASEY MILLISKI

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Kasey Milliski upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Milliski is a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House Charities. The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of children being treated at nearby hospitals, and she has dedicated herself to helping many Delaware families in need.

Ms. Milliski's passion for volunteer work was born out of her own personal hardships. In turn, she continues to reach out to sick children and their families with kindness and compassion. Ms. Milliski's simple approach to helping others is genuine and has a profound impact on many.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Milliski upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. She is truly worthy of this honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 2004, because of my leave of absence, I was unable to vote on legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 84, Previous Question on H. Con. Res. 393, "no";

Rollcall 85, H.R. 3786, allowing the Treasury to print documents for foreign governments, "yes";

Rollcall 86, H.R. 2993, Extend the Commemorative Coin Act, "yes";

Rollcall 87, H.R. 254, North American Development Bank, "yes";

Rollcall 88, H. Con. Res. 393, Budget Resolution, Congressional Black Caucus Substitute, "no";

Rollcall 89, H. Con. Res. 393, Stenholm/Blue Dog Substitute, "yes";

Rollcall 90, H. Con. Res. 393, Spratt/Democratic Substitute, "yes";

Rollcall 91, H. Con. Res. 393, H. Con. Res. 393, Final Passage, "no";

Rollcall 92, H.R. 3095, Allowing Local Officials to Order the Lowering of the U.S. Flag to Honor Deaths of Current or Past Local Government Employees, "yes".

HONORING MRS. NANCY O'CONNOR OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman of great spirit and integrity.

Mrs. Nancy O'Connor has been a friend of mine for many years. She has utilized her passion for our democratic system to assist many Republicans like myself by serving on various campaigns. Nancy is one of the most sincere and generous individuals I have had the pleasure of knowing.

In addition to her 20 years of hard work for the good of the Republican Party, Nancy is the wife of Mr. Richard O'Connor and a wonderful mother to Mrs. Roxanne Hansen and Ms. Amber O'Connor. Nancy and Richard moved to Chaffee County, Colorado in 1971 to establish Hummingbird Hill Ranch and have been active community members ever since.

Nancy has also been a respected real estate broker for over 30 years. She has been the recipient of many awards for her dedication, including the recognition as fifth in the nation for sales under United County Real Estate in 2003 and fourth in the nation for 2002. She is also a respected Rotarian, member of the Chaffee County Republican Women and has been the Chairwoman of the Chaffee County Republican Party for 16 years.

Nancy has been a leader for many community service efforts in her community. For 12 years she has given her time and her wonderful talents as a cook to raising money for the Buena Vista High School Presidential Classroom project. She has helped many young men and women in her community to participate in this extraordinary experience by sponsoring the annual lasagna dinner with the Chaffee County Republican Women, and making enough homemade lasagna every year to feed an average of 250 people.

During her two-year term as President of the Buena Vista Rotary Club, in addition to winning the Humanitarian Service to Mankind Award, Nancy also led an effort to restructure the playground at Columbine Park for the kids of Buena Vista. Her efforts raised enough money to buy new equipment and not only add fun for local youth, but improved the community atmosphere as well.

To say the least, Nancy is an extraordinary woman with a very kind heart. She brightens the day of anyone she encounters and is al-

ways willing to offer a helping hand to those in need. To this day, she continues to send homemade cookies to myself and the other Colorado Republican delegation to say thank you for what we do.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Nancy for all that she does.

HONORING JIM ELLISON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jim Ellison upon his nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. For over 25 years, Mr. Ellison has aided Delawareans who are confronting personal crises. As a volunteer for CONTACT, Delaware's crisis line, Mr. Ellison has logged a state record of 8,553 hours, many of which he accumulated during the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift.

Mr. Ellison's lifetime of service has had no limit. Prior to becoming a volunteer, he worked 29 years as a revenue officer for the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Ellison also served in the Army Air Corps and from January 1944 until August 1945, Mr. Ellison cleaned machine guns for B-24 bombers.

Jim Ellison's tireless dedication to the well-being of others should serve as an inspiration to us all. He is a most worthy candidate for the Jefferson Award and a truly outstanding Delawarean and American.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Mr. Ellison upon his nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. May we all learn from, and exemplify, his selflessness.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHIE PEREZ

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Richie Perez—a longtime community activist who lived in Brooklyn.

Richie Perez was a fighter. He fought for the rights of all people, and he fought against the devastating inequities that plague our society. He fought for the poor, the disenfranchised, the downtrodden—and gave them a voice.

His passion for activism began in the 1960s as a former member of the community-based organization for Puerto Rican empowerment called the Young Lords Party. He most recently founded the National Congress for Puerto Rican rights, acting as the co-chair of its Justice Committee, which works with families of victims of racial discrimination and police brutality.

He was a mentor to many and a hero to even more. He imparted his ideas and philosophies onto others by teaching classes on the Puerto Rican experience in New York, mass media and social policy at New York City's Hunter College. Not only was he an activist and a teacher, but he was an author as